



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board of November 2, 2011.

The Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Takako Wakita at noon. Members attending were: Takako Wakita, Chairperson; Wayne Hewitt, Vice Chairperson; Janet Baker, Recording Secretary; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro; Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Philippines; David Gorbet, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; and Linda Gunther, Staff Representative. Sister Cities not represented were Dingle, Ireland; Weihai, China and Patras, Greece.

The Guests attending were Jan Olivas, President, Puerto Vallarta Sister City; Pat Fallin, SOCAL, Gil and Marti Garcia; and Jim Armstrong, City Administrator.

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried the minutes of the September 7, 2011 were approved as corrected: (1) under Public Comments, line 2 delete "which dropped out a few months after being approved" and (2) on page 2 re: Open World Program last line add "with no responsibility for providing housing".

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Linda Gunther announced she has been asked to remain on the Sister Cities Board after her retirement on November 4, 2011. Pat Fallin, SOCAL Board announced the next meeting of the SOCAL Board will be held on December 3, 2011 in Santa Barbara at the Philippine Community Center, 425 State Street at 10:00 a.m. followed by a get together at the home of Gil Garcia at 1:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Gil Garcia reported that he and Marti attended the SCI Summit meeting in Egypt. He said about 40 countries were represented. The Summit was also sponsored by the State Department. Pat Fallin also added that the Gates Foundation which 3 years ago gave a grant of seven and half million dollars to do work in Africa and this money is coming to an end.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Calendar was reviewed and no changes or additions were made.

9-11 CONCERT: Takako reported that approximately 1,000 people attended the concert. She thanked Wayne and Linda for helping pass out flyers about the concert at the Sunken Gardens at a program held earlier that morning.

UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION: Takako thanked Kotor and San Juan for providing the wonderful entertainment for the event. She said that 165 people attended.

SCI PAN PACIFIC CONFERENCE: Takako reported that she along with Gil and Marti Garcia and Pat Fallin attended the conference which was held at the historic Mission Inn in Riverside, California. Attendance of 275 people and Gil said that Korea and Mongolia were represented. Workshops were good.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY TV (Channel 18): Takako reported that the first program will be general, covering all seven sister cities and then starting in January will feature

the Toba Sister City and March will feature the Kotor Sister City. The program will air every other month for 3 minutes segment.

OPEN WORLD PROGRAM 2012: Gil Garcia will give a report at the January meeting when he hopes to have more information.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly reported on the performance of the children who went to Kotor to participate in the International Music Festival and who also gave a great performance at the United Nations Day dinner. He said this is the third year for the Culinary School exchange with Santa Barbara City College and the top graduates from Kotor will be spending four months in the U.S. , three months in Los Angeles training in the restaurant there and then one month in Santa Barbara at City College. Next year the Water Polo team from UCSB will be going to Kotor to compete.

San Juan, Philippines: Jaime Sodusta reported they have Country/Western dances at their Social Hall each month which is open to the public. They participated in the San Raphael Church Festival and the Feast of San Lorenzo Concert which is a Thanksgiving event open to the public. Jaime said that he and his wife will be going to San Juan and will be taking school books.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: David Gorbet reported that 38 members will be leaving November 8th for 10 day visitation to Puerto Vallarta and will be taking fireman's jackets donated by the Santa Barbara Fire Department to the Puerto Vallarta Fire Department. Jan Olivas added that there will be a Gala event at the Navy Base in Puerto Vallarta during the visitation to re-dedicate the decompression chamber which was donated to the City of Puerto Vallarta several years ago by the Santa Barbara Sister City Committee and which has been completely refurbished and is state of the art now. Also, there will be a re-dedication for the Dolphin Fountain which was moved from its original site on the Molocran.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported that 17 people will be leaving for Toba on November 6, 2011 and Mayor Schneider will be joining the group. They will be viewing the earthquake damage and will be presenting a check for \$3500.00 for the recovery program.

Dingle, Ireland: No representative attended and no report given

Weihai, China: No representative attended and no report given

Patras, Greece: No representative attended and no report given

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Baker, Recording Secretary